

Woodhull House
167 Broadway
Norwich
New London County
Connecticut

HABS No. CONN-257

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

WOODHULL HOUSE

Street Address: 167 Broadway, Norwich, New London County, Connecticut

Present Owner
and Occupant: Harry MacDougald

Present Use: Residence

Brief Statement
of Significance: This is a large, Greek Revival, frame house built soon after 1830.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- A. Original and Subsequent Owners: The earliest owners known by the present owner of the house are a Mr. and Mrs. Woodhull who lived in the house for many years. Ownership then passed to the Trumbull family; then to a Dr. Kimball; then to another Trumbull, a Miss Trumbull; then to the present owner, Harry MacDougald.
- B. Date of Erection: Soon after 1830.
- C. Notes on Alterations and Additions: Dr. Kimball, at the time he owned the house, spent \$11,000 remodeling it, installing a new heating system, and building the barn. The present owner has made several alterations, mostly in 1957-1958, including new floors, a remodeled kitchen, and a new terrace at the east rear corner of the house.
- D. Source of Information: Interview with the present owner, Harry MacDougald, 167 Broadway, Norwich, Connecticut, October 27, 1960.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

- A. General Statement:
1. Architectural character: This is a large, Greek Revival, frame house.
 2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.
- B. Technical Description of Exterior:
1. Over-all dimensions: The house consists of a rectangular main block with a rear wing and a shed adjoining the rear of the wing. The main block is about 38 feet wide (five bays) by 24 feet deep, two stories high plus a cellar. The rear wing is about 18 feet wide by 24 feet deep, two stories high plus a cellar. The shed is about 15 feet wide by 18 feet deep, one story high.

2. Foundations: Random ashlar foundations.
3. Wall construction: Frame construction, with flush vertical siding on the front, and clapboards on the sides and rear with an average 4-1/4 inch exposure; painted white. The facade is divided into five bays by flat pilasters.
4. Portico: Tetraprostyle Tuscan portico. The two-story high, wood columns support a gable roof with an elaborately lighted pediment in the gable end.
5. Chimneys: Three brick chimneys: two in the end walls of the main block, one in the rear wing.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: There are three entrances to the house. The main entrance in the center of the front has a five-panel door--two panels over one panel over two panels--semicircular top light, and side lights, set in a pilastered frame. An entrance at the rear of the center hall has a top-lighted, six-panel door. The rear kitchen door is modern.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Double-hung windows, six-light sash over six-light, except on the first floor front, where the lower sash have been replaced by single-light sash. Shutters have fixed louvers in their upper halves and adjustable louvers in their lower halves.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Hip roof with a ridge pole and with rafters spaced 28 inches on center.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Boxed eaves with denticulated cornice. The cornice is part of a full entablature on the front of the house.

C. Technical Description of Interiors:

1. Floor plans: Central-hall type plan, one room deep. The first floor has a living room to the right, or southeast, of the central hall; dining room to the left, or northwest; and a kitchen in the rear wing. The second floor has three bedrooms and bath in the main block, and a bedroom, bath, and sitting room in the rear wing.
2. Stairways: Two stairways, one in the central entrance hall and a rear stairway in the wing. The main stairway in the central hall is an open-string stair with slender rectangular balusters and a round hand rail.
3. Flooring: Modern hardwood flooring.

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4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plastered and papered walls; plastered ceilings. On the first floor the ceilings have been divided into panels about three feet by six feet by narrow, molded wood strips.
5. Doorways and doors: Six-panel doors, in pilastered door frames with carved, foliated corner blocks.
6. Trim: Molded and carved wood trim.
7. Hardware: Original hardware is mostly of brass with some wrought-iron hardware. Some of the original hardware has been replaced with glass pieces.
8. Lighting: Electric.
9. Heating: Central heating plus fireplaces on both first and second floors. All fireplaces have wood mantels, mostly simple pilastered mantels. The living room, or parlor, mantel is round headed, carved, and painted in imitation of marble.

D. Site:

1. Orientation and general setting: The house faces southwest on a city lot 400 feet deep. The lot is level in front and slopes down in the rear.
2. Outbuildings: There is a barn with a second-floor apartment behind the house.
3. Walks, driveways: Flagstone walks; gravel driveways.
4. Landscaping, gardens, etc. Informal landscaping with lawn, trees, and shrubs.

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby, Architect
National Park Service
October 1960